

## Today's News - Wednesday, February 27, 2013

- The public realm rules today: the winning design in the Green Square Library & Plaza competition "gives the space back to Sydney."
- The Smithsonian taps BIG to come up with a campus master plan: "there's no telling when or if it will implement Ingels' designs, but it will be fascinating to see what he comes up with."
- North of the border, Hume hails "Toronto's newfound interest in parks - we are going from being a city that cared mostly about buildings to one focused on the spaces between buildings."
- Luka lauds Montreal's "encouraging if somewhat controversial" Quartier des Spectacles: it's "a fine example of a compelling Canadian tendency toward reurbanism."
- Winnipeg is re-imagining its own downtown spaces with proposals to take "underused spaces most of us would not even notice and transform them into high-density hubs of urban activity."
- Chicago's mayor has big plans for the Windy City's riverfront, but "before he barges ahead, he'd do well to take some lessons from what worked - and what didn't - in three other cities."
- NRDC's Henderson considers this a "Burnham moment" for the Chicago River's future, before it becomes "a stinking lagoon at the center of our downtown, neighborhoods, and suburbs."
- A "new crop of bridge replacements has Los Angeles poised to remake its image - with style."
- Moby riffs on "baffling, Byzantine, fantastically uncohesive" L.A. architecture in all its "mind-numbingly complicated" glory.
- PBS MetroFocus presents a look at three regions still struggling to cope, post-Sandy; MAS's Cipolla on plans to make major changes to Manhattan's East Midtown area; and CUF's Giles on the new roles NYC libraries have in their communities.
- Portland State University extends the city's downtown cultural district.
- Lamb Hart's A New Humanism: Part 11 looks at "the connections between intentions and expectations - we often enjoy surprises, but we still crave the pleasure of a basic predictability."
- Three architects in Egypt launch Mini Architect, "a program designed to help children master daily life skills and function more effectively."
- Blast from the past: a 1957 interview with FLW exhibits "his trademark eloquence and blistering opinions" (such as "distaste" for the Sydney Opera House, and a warning to NYC that if it doesn't acquire more green space immediately, it will be "uninhabitable").
- Starchitects design rugs for a non-profit that benefits master female weavers in a poverty-stricken province of Afghanistan: "Today, we employ 700 people in an area that looks like the moon."
- An impressive list of winners of the ICAA 2013 Arthur Ross Awards for Excellence in the Classical Tradition.
- Call for entries: BIA 2013 Brick in Architecture Awards (U.S. & Canada).

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[Green Square Library & Plaza competition winner revealed: Stewart Hollenstein + Colin Stewart Architects have beaten international competitors...from over 29 countries...fuses a range of buildings with the outdoor plaza to create multiple sites for a number of uses...](#) "Basically [it] gives the space back to Sydney; back to Green Square." [images]- Australian Design Review

[Smithsonian hires renowned modernist architect to rethink historic D.C. campus: BIG/Bjarke Ingels Group...won an eight- to 12- month, \\$2.4 million contract to draft the first phase of the campus master plan...there's no telling when or if the Smithsonian will implement Ingels' designs, but it will be fascinating to see what he comes up with.](#) - Washington Business Journal

[Toronto's newfound interest in parks signals an urban maturity: A rash of park proposals is a sign of a city where green space is more important than ever...we are going from being a city that cared mostly about buildings to one focused on the spaces between buildings.](#) By Christopher Hume- Toronto Star

[Urban Spectacular: A bold series of downtown plazas reintroduces vibrant urban life into spaces left over from postwar mega-projects...Montreal is defined...by its public realm...locals have seen an encouraging if somewhat controversial series of urban projects...under the banner of the Quartier des Spectacles...a fine example of a compelling Canadian tendency toward reurbanism...](#) By Nik Luka -- Daoust Lestage [images]- Canadian Architect

[Architects dream up ways to breathe life into downtown spaces: The Re-imagining Winnipeg project...has certainly created food for thought about what this city is and what it could be...proposals took underused spaces most of us would not even notice and transformed them into high-density hubs of urban activity.](#) -- Sean Radford; Calnitsky Associates Architects; Will Bruder Architects/Peter Sampson Architecture Studio; Brian Pearson- Winnipeg Free Press (Canada)

[What Chicago Can Learn From Three Other Urban River Walks: Ideas for Mayor Rahm Emanuel's latest pet project — livening up the downtown riverfront...before he barges ahead, he'd do well to take some lessons from what worked — and what didn't — in three other cities that have undertaken similar projects...Indianapolis, San Antonio, London-](#) Chicago Magazine

[Op-Ed: It's time to reverse our thinking on Chicago River's future: ...Lake Michigan's historic low levels are inviting the waterway to revert to its natural flow downhill, back to the lake...the river could be transformed into a stinking lagoon at the center of our downtown...We can act, or we can just let things run downhill.](#) By Henry Henderson/Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)- Crain's Chicago Business

[One Day Soon L.A. May Be Known for the Beauty of Its Bridges: A new crop of bridge replacements has Los Angeles poised to remake its image...Politicians and designers alike hope these bridges...will help propel the city's infrastructure to a future that embraces bicyclists, walkers, and transit riders, and does so with style.](#) -- HNTB; Michael Maltzan Architecture; AC Martin Partners; Andrew Leicester [images]- The Atlantic Cities

[Moby Praises 'Baffling, Byzantine, Fantastically Uncohesive' L.A. Architecture: ...video about "Pacific Standard Time Presents: Modern Architecture in L.A."...he riffs on LA architecture, in all its "mind-numbingly complicated" glory.](#) [video]- UnBeige

[Four months since Superstorm Sandy struck the New York area...a look at three regions still struggling to cope + Vin Cipolla of The Municipal Art Society of New York speaks about plans to make major changes to Manhattan's East Midtown area + Center for an Urban Future's David Giles talks about the city's libraries and their new role providing services and programs to immigrants and low income communities.](#) - PBS

[Portland State University gets a new tower and an upgrade to College of the Arts: ...extends the downtown cultural district several blocks...](#) -- Boora Architects [image]- The Oregonian

[A New Humanism: Part 11: The connections between intentions and expectations: With different levels of intensity, propensities to plan or to improvise...we often enjoy surprises, but we still crave the pleasure of a basic predictability, to anticipate what a place...will do to us or for us.](#) By Robert Lamb Hart/Hart Howerton; illustrations by Albrecht Pichler- Metropolis Magazine

Building blocks: Children learn to see the world through architecture: Mini Architect, a program designed to help children master daily life skills and function more effectively, hopes to help them "see the world through architecture"... "We noticed that our work as architects has positively impacted our own children"... -- Rania al-Basty; Amira al-Sherif; Rania Nassar- Egypt Independent

The NEH Preservation Project: 'The Artistic and the Beautiful': Frank Lloyd Wright's Wide-Ranging Views: In 1957, he sat down to discuss his design philosophy, exhibiting his trademark eloquence and blistering opinions...expresses distaste for the nascent designs of Sydney Opera House...warns that if New York City doesn't acquire more green space immediately, it will be "uninhabitable."- WNYC.org

Gehry, Hadid design rugs for nonprofit Arzu Masters Collection: ...Arzu Studio Hope, a U.S. nonprofit organization has launched 10 hand-knotted wool rugs designed by Frank Gehry, Zaha Hadid, Michael Graves, Robert A.M. Stern, Margaret McCurry/Stanley Tigerman/Tigerman McCurry..."Today, we employ 700 people in an area that looks like the moon"... [images]- Los Angeles Times

ICAA 2013 Arthur Ross Awards for Excellence in the Classical Tradition Winners -- Fairfax & Sammons Architects; Thomas Jayne/Jayne Design Studio; Miriam Ellner; Jonathan Nelson; Richard Cameron- Institute of Classical Architecture & Art (ICAA)

Call for entries: BIA 2013 Brick in Architecture Awards (U.S. & Canada); new categories include: K-12; Colleges & Universities; and Renovation/Restoration; deadline: April 30- Brick Industry Association

Nuts + Bolts #2: You Can't SELL If You Can't TELL: You talk all the time but are you communicating clearly? Use your words effectively to build your influence. By Tami D. Hausman, Ph.D. - ArchNewsNow



-- Michael Maltzan Architecture: Regen Projects, Los Angeles, California  
-- MAD Architects/Ma Yansong: Huangshan Mountain Village, Anhui Province, China

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